

Recent Fern Literature

China is to be congratulated on the excellence of some of the botanical work that is now being vigorously prosecuted in several local institutions, for modern botanical work in China, as to Chinese institutions, dates back only about ten years. This recently issued volume on Chinese ferns¹ is an excellent example of modern Chinese printing as to format, typography, presentation of data, and illustrations. It was issued under the joint auspices of the Metropolitan Museum of Natural History, Nanking, and the Fan Memorial Institute of Biology, Peiping. It is large quarto in size, and contains the descriptions in both English and Chinese, with very excellent plates, of 51 species of Chinese ferns. Most of these have not previously been illustrated, and some of them were actually described for the first time in 1929. The figures cover macroscopic and some microscopic characters, and are unusually good. This volume, dedicated to Dr. Carl Christensen, should be in every fern lover's library, and is almost indispensable to those interested in the identification of Chinese ferns.—E. D. MERRILL, *New York Botanical Garden*.

“History of the Ferns of Chile” (*Historia de los Helechos chilenos*). *Revista Universitaria*, Vol. 15, October, 1930. By Gualterio Looser.

In 1906, the writer of this review began technical fern study with a reference to the work of a Spanish botanist, Cavanilles, and specifically to his description of the tropical fern genus *Antrophyum*. The present paper contains a review of the literature dealing with the ferns of Chile including both local writers, such as R. A. and

¹ Hu, H. H., and Ching, R. C. *Icones filicum sinicarum*. Fasc. 1: 1-102. Pl. 1-50. 1930.

Frederico Philippi, Reiche, etc.,—and various Europeans, including Skottsberg, Presl, Bertero, and others.

The brief lists of ferns included in this review are familiar for most of their genera, but naturally not for the species, only the omnipresent *Cystopteris fragilis* being represented. In a footnote, reference is made to a FERN JOURNAL article, "The Ferns of Central Chile," published in the second number of 1930.

INJURIOUS FUNGUS PARASITE OF EQUISETUM.—During the past year a fungus disease of *Equisetum praealtum* Raf. has become very severe around Columbus, Ohio. The fungus is one of the Discomycetae, *Stamnaria americana* Masee & Morgan. This species was originally described from Preston, Ohio. It differs from the European *Stamnaria equiseti* in having much larger asci and spores. It forms large patches more especially on the lower internodes and these spread until the stem is so much injured that the shoot dies. The little cups break out in more or less longitudinal rows and when fresh have a yellowish orange color, giving very much the appearance of an ordinary rust. The cups are too small to be distinguished by the naked eye. Some parts of a large patch of *Equisetum* near Columbus have nearly every stalk infected, with a large percentage of them dead.—JOHN H. SCHAFFNER, *Columbus, Ohio*.

TRICHOMANES PETERSII A. GRAY IN TENNESSEE.—On Saturday and Sunday, April 11 and 12, 1931, the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club of Knoxville made a trip to Thunderhead Mountain in the Great Smokies via Townsend and Tremont, Tennessee. Making what proved to be a fortunate decision, Dr. H. M. Jennison, Mr. Harlow Bishop and the writer started some hours